

Partly cloudy today. Tomorrow showers; light winds, mostly easterly.

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The Washington Times.

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1902.

A WASHINGTON PAPER FOR WASHINGTON PEOPLE. The Price of THE TIMES is Two Cents—Do Not Pay More to Newsboys.

Price Two Cents.

STRIKE QUESTION REMAINS IN DOUBT

Decision Rests With the Miners Now in Session at Hazleton.

MITCHELL URGES CAUTION

Anthracite Workers Held Their Own Council—All Hope of Concession From Operators Gone—May Present Ultimatum Before Going Out.

HAZLETON, Pa., May 14.—The miners' convention adjourned until 2 o'clock tomorrow, without accomplishing any definite results. Even at a late hour tonight it is impossible to make a prediction as to the outcome, as the delegates are keeping their own counsel, and only when a vote is taken will the result be made known. The convention opened promptly at 10 o'clock, and President John Mitchell was elected chairman. He addressed the meeting as follows:

"Gentlemen: Your meeting here today is fraught with great responsibility. You are going to decide the most important movement in the history of the anthracite coal industry, if not the most important in the labor history of the world. That you will decide, what is best to do is my earnest belief and constant hope. I want every man who is here to do his full duty as his conscience and judgment may dictate, and be prepared to cast his vote for the best interests of the cause."

Remarks Well Received.

His remarks were greeted with applause. Secretary W. B. Wilson was elected secretary, and District Secretaries Dempsey, Gallagher, and Hartline were elected a committee on credentials. A recess was then taken until 1:30 o'clock to allow the credentials committee and district boards time to complete their reports.

The credentials committee was not ready to present its report at the opening of the afternoon session, so the delegates were entertained with songs and musical selections until the committee appeared. One delegate objected to the hilarity of the well-being of thousands of families depended on the outcome of the convention's deliberations, and that this was no time for levity.

When the committee presented its report the convention went into executive session. After adjournment, President Mitchell stated that the afternoon was mostly taken up with the consideration of the credentials committee's report, and that he had not yet presented his report.

President to Report.

The convention will last all of tomorrow, and may go over until Friday. Tomorrow Mr. Mitchell will make a full report of his negotiations with the operators since the Shamokin convention. He will give in detail all the particulars of the meeting with the Civic Federation, and will report everything that was said and done at the series of conferences between the Mine Workers' representatives and the coal operators held in New York.

This will also include the reading of all letters and telegrams that have passed between these labor leaders and the Civic Federation and coal operators. Mitchell said his report will be confined strictly to facts, and will contain no recommendations or suggestions. He will give his advice at a later period of the convention. Every delegate wishes to speak with him before he leaves.

President Mitchell admitted today that he had a definite plan in view, but refused to give any indication as to its nature. He said that all hope of concessions from the operators was gone. He had received no word from the operators or Senator Hanna.

Ultimatum to Operators.

A well authenticated rumor is going the rounds that an ultimatum will be presented to the operators, and if no notice is taken thereof the strike will surely be made permanent.

A canvass has been made of the firemen and engineers at collieries in this vicinity as to what this class of labor will do in case a strike is ordered. A large percentage of these answers have been made public, and are to the effect that the orders of the convention will be obeyed.

Some of the firemen have notified their foremen that in case they quit they will not allow the fires to remain.

READY FOR LONG SIEGE.

Operators Take Advantage of Delay and Look for Non-Union Men.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., May 14.—The operators are taking advantage of another day's respite before the expected strike, and when it takes place the miners will be in a position to stand a long siege. The chief danger threatening them now is that the firemen, engineers, and pump men will be called out.

There are 4,260 engineers and firemen, and 2,500 pump runners, and their loss would cripple the companies in keeping the mines clear until the new men could be broken in. These would be composed of clerks, bosses, and men, and some of them already have been engaged and are waiting in Philadelphia and elsewhere ready to come to the coal region.

The operators today learned that while most of the firemen might strike they were assured that the great majority of the pump runners and engineers would remain at work and they would thus have little trouble in keeping the mines free from water. There is also a rumor that if the firemen are ordered out the operators will concede their grievances to keep them. The operators refuse to speak about this.

The unusual activity in the offices of the big companies, where the clerks have been working day and night since the strike was declared, is taken as an indication that as soon as a strike is declared the companies will pay off their men and discharge them. This is the further evidence of the operators' determination to fight the union to a standstill, and in the event of winning the strike discharge all those men who were active in organization. What is to be done the operators will not state, declaring that they cannot talk until a strike is declared and then they may have something to say.

The first arrest in connection with the strike occurred today. Milton Crook, a guard at the Avondale mine, was charged with threatening to shoot Charles Snyder, a striker. Snyder says he was walking past the mine with two women when Crook taunted him and made threats. Crook was held for a hearing.

The idle miners are spending much of their time in fishing or in making gardens, and those who anticipate a strike are planting potatoes and corn.

Mine Workers in Session at Hazleton.

The general convention of the United Mine Workers of America of the anthracite coal territory of Pennsylvania met yesterday at Hazleton, Pa., to consider whether the temporary strike for higher wages or shorter hours, inaugurated on Monday, shall be made formal. The miners continue to hold their counsel, and little definite information can be learned. The convention meets again today, and may continue over tomorrow.

CARNEGIE WOULD HAVE SET THE FILIPINOS FREE

Stood Ready to Pay Spain the Claim of Twenty Million Dollars.

FRIEND TELLS OF HIS DESIRES

Philanthropist Called on Late President McKinley in the Hope That Some Agreement Could Be Reached—Says Mr. G. F. Webb, of New York, Sought to Prevent Bloodshed.

NEW YORK, May 14.—Through Mr. George F. Webb, president of the Fidelity and Casualty Company, new evidence has been made public of the intensity of Andrew Carnegie's opposition to United States occupation of the Philippines. Mr. Webb says that Mr. Carnegie offered to furnish the \$20,000,000 we paid to Spain, if by that means, he could be enabled to assure the Filipinos that their independence would be acknowledged ultimately by the United States.

Mr. Seward and Mr. Carnegie are old friends. Mr. Seward believes that he is the first anti-imperialist, and he is very decided in his opinion of the Philippine situation. Mr. Carnegie is thoroughly in sympathy with the views of his friend. In a recent article in the "North American Review" Mr. Carnegie told about an interview he had had with President McKinley, when our occupation of the Philippines was discussed. It was after that interview that President McKinley said:

"Mr. Carnegie does not understand the matter."

Tells Whole Story.

Mr. Seward has now given an account on the authority of Mr. Carnegie himself of some things that were said in that interview, which Mr. Carnegie did not relate. In the last issue of the "Monthly Bulletin," a publication which the Fidelity and Casualty Company prints for the benefit of its agents, Mr. Seward said in the course of an article on the Philippine situation:

"There is a man in our nation distinguished for his marvelous success and for his wonderful use of wealth. Born in Scotland, he came to our land and has won here distinction in many ways. This man went to Mr. McKinley when the Spanish treaty was pending and said to him that America was in the face of war in the Philippines; that our people and the Filipinos would soon be killing one another, and he asked to be sent to Manila with the fullest authority to declare that America, the great and good things for the little brown men and would soon recognize their independence."

"This man said to Mr. McKinley further that he said the matter so much to heart that he sent him a check for \$20,000,000 called for by the treaty."

Repeats Conversation.

When asked about this statement today Mr. Seward said that the conversation in which Mr. Carnegie had told him of the offer had taken place at Mr. Carnegie's house in this city some time before Mr. Carnegie sailed for Europe. They had been talking about the Philippine situation, and Mr. Carnegie had expressed again his regret at the course of events in those islands.

He then spoke of his effort to prevent the outbreak of hostilities between the Filipinos and the Americans there. He said that he had called on the President in Washington before the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain, and had told him that he was convinced we were facing a war with the Filipinos which he was greatly desirous of avoiding.

At that time the President was already contemplating sending a commission to the Philippines to endeavor to reach an agreement with Aguinaldo, and his people, which should avoid hostilities.

Mr. Carnegie told the President that he wanted to be sent to the Philippines as a special commissioner, or as one of several commissioners, with authority to assure the Filipinos that the Americans were seeking only their good and had only the kindest feelings for and the best disposition toward them; that we desired to help them and establish their independence would be recognized.

Offered to Pay Sum.

If he had such authority he himself would undertake to pay the \$20,000,000 which the Treaty of Paris stipulated the United States should pay to Spain for the relinquishment of her title to the Philippines.

Mr. Carnegie did not desire to prevent the ratification of the treaty, but he did desire to prevent the United States from undertaking to control and govern those islands, a proceeding which he believed to be fraught with grave danger to us and the responsibilities of which he thought we should not assume.

Mr. Carnegie has never made any public reference to this part of his talk with President McKinley, but Mr. Seward said today that in telling him about it Mr. Carnegie had laid no injunction of secrecy upon him and he had, therefore, felt authorized to make it public.

MEATS ARE STILL HIGH.

Butchers and Consumers Awaiting Arrival of Grass-Fed Cattle.

Local butchers and consumers are looking forward to the first of June, when grass fed cattle will be put on the market, and no decrease in the price of beef is expected before that date.

High prices continued to prevail yesterday, and there was a noticeable falling off in the quantity of meat sold. Retailers are complaining bitterly, and many of them claim they are being ruined by the exorbitant valuation placed on meats of all kinds.

WOULDN'T SHOOT PEASANTS.

Russian Soldiers Imprisoned for Showing Mercy to Rioters.

BERLIN, May 14.—The "Vorwarts" learns from Pottava, Russia, that twenty-eight Russian soldiers have been imprisoned for refusing to shoot revolutionary peasants. One of the officers is being tried by court-martial because he ordered that but one rifle in every ten should be loaded with ball cartridges. The revolted peasants, the dispatch says, placed their children in the front rank in order to discourage the soldiers from shooting.

ARMY OFFICERS PUT IN CHARGE

Arctic Explorer Borzhengvink and Geological Experts Sail for Island.

JOURNEY ONE OF FOUR DAYS

No Arrangements as Yet Made for Distribution of Supplies—Fort de France to Be First Point Visited—Help Also Badly Needed at Other Places.

NEW YORK, May 14.—The auxiliary cruiser Dixie sailed from Brooklyn for Martinique tonight, having on board 1,234 tons of food and clothing, a number of officers of the quartermaster's and commissary departments to distribute it, and a number of passengers.

The Dixie was ready to sail at 8 o'clock, but a lighter loaded with supplies came alongside at the last moment and it took a trifle over an hour to get this cargo on board.

Day of Hard Work.

At 9:17 the Dixie left her dock, after a hard day's hustling. All but seven hundred tons of the cargo was put on today. The army officers who went on the Dixie to attend to the distribution of the relief supplies were Capt. R. Sewell, Capt. Hugh J. Gallagher, Assistant Surgeons J. B. Clayton, J. R. Church, and I. Riley, Capt. W. S. Ross, four sergeants, and four privates of the hospital corps.

Among the passengers to sail were Dr. Jagger of Harvard, geologist; Prof. Hill, of the United States Geological Survey; Prof. Russell, of the University of Michigan; Captain Borzhengvink, the Arctic explorer, and George Curtis, of the National Geographic Society.

The Dixie is commanded by Capt. R. B. Berry, and her navigating officer is Lieut. John B. Bernadon, who commanded the Winslow during the Spanish war.

Lieutenant Bernadon said the cruiser would lay a course almost due south after leaving this port, going through the Anegada passage after leaving Hatteras. The entire journey is 1,800 miles, he thought, might be made in four or five days.

To Distribute Food.

No arrangements for the distribution of the Dixie's supplies had been made when the cruiser left here today. She will go first to Fort de France, where the army officers will get a good tip on the situation, and then proceed to the point where help is most needed. It is likely a great deal of the Dixie's cargo will be put ashore at Fort de France.

AMERICANS CONTRIBUTE.

Fund Subscribed in Paris for Island of Martinique Sufferers.

PARIS, May 14.—Mr. Vignaud, the secretary of the American Embassy, addressed a meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce today for the purpose of raising subscriptions for sufferers by the eruptions in the island of Martinique.

Mr. Peart, the former president, presided. Mr. Vignaud proposed that a subscription be opened for the benefit of the survivors, and that all Americans in Europe be invited to contribute. The resolution also included a suggestion that subscription lists be opened in all banks at other commercial centers.

President Kimball introduced Mr. Vignaud, who made a short speech, arousing great enthusiasm.

One result was that 12,000 francs were subscribed in the room at once. The meeting was summoned in a hurry, and there were comparatively few present.

Among these were Mr. Harjes, of the Morgan firm; Mr. Lullin, Mr. Munroe, Mr. Ingersoll, Mr. Seligman, Mr. Cahill, Mr. Hyde, M. Vallois, M. Hoff, M. Knoll, Mr. Morgan Gallet, and Mr. Jones.

Mr. Vignaud said he was fully satisfied with the prompt response of American sympathy with France. Mr. Vignaud then hurried off to hand over the first installment of 12,000 francs to M. Delcasse, the minister for foreign affairs, for transmission to the West Indies, through M. Decrais, the minister for the colonies.

In connection with the volcanic eruption a large meteor, which fell at Montpelier last night, caused great consternation.

M. Lhuere, secretary general of Martinique, cables M. Decrais, colonial minister, from Fort de France, under yesterday's date, that vessels in the roadstead of St. Pierre on the morning of the disaster were the French bark Tamaya, the Italian bark Nord America, Sacro Cuoro, and Teresa Lo Vieo; the English cable steamer Grappler, the American vessels Arama and Anamora; M. Lhuere adds:

"Senator Knight is well and is giving me every help. Tell Mrs. Knight that it is a fact that her father and mother have been at Fort de France since yesterday and are in good health."

M. Lhuere's children are with M. Villeraud. The people have been advised of the subscriptions for relief made by President Loubet and the ministers, and the second subscriptions that have been opened in France and other countries.

The subscriptions to the fund opened by Colonial Secretary Decrais now amount to 153,000 francs. The Duc de Chartres subscribed 10,000 francs. Count de Castellane sent his check for 1,000 francs.

MEYER UNDER ARREST.

Broker Alleged to Have Manipulated Stocks in the Webb Syndicate.

NEW YORK, May 14.—Arthur I. Meyer, who is alleged to have conducted the market manipulation of the so-called Webb-Meyer stocks, was arrested in the sheriff's office today.

He furnished \$1,000 bail. The plaintiff in David Rosenberg, of 180 Henry Street, who alleges that he lost \$2,200.

U. S. CRUISER DIXIE SAILS FOR MARTINIQUE

Messenger of Relief Carries Tons of Food and Clothing.

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MANY CHARRED BODIES FOUND NEAR RUINED ST. PIERRE HOMES

An Ox, Thin as a Skeleton, the Only Living Thing in St. Pierre.

Latest dispatches from St. Pierre tell of wreckage and ruin. On all sides can be seen scorched bodies partly covered with ashes and cinders. The only living thing found was an ox, thin as a skeleton. The animal was making its way to the coast for water.

Most of the bodies discovered were found with their faces to the ground, which leads the searchers to believe that many met death through suffocation.

Every house in the town and in all suburban sections was completely wrecked. It is near many of the public buildings and in the residential sections that many of the bodies, in a badly decomposed state, are to be found.

POPE LEO PLEADED.

Expresses Satisfaction to Bishop Gorman Over Mission of Governor Taft.

ROME, May 14.—The Pope today received Bishop O'Gorman, to whom he expressed satisfaction at the action of the United States Government in sending Governor Taft, of the Philippines Commission, to discuss with the Vatican church question concerning those islands.

CHIRIQUITA DISASTROUS FOR THE GOVERNMENT

Only Seventy-three Survivors of Battle Return to Bocas.

Revolutionists Lost Five Killed and Seventeen Wounded—Colombian Gunboat General Pinzon Reported Captured by Insurgents.

NEW ORLEANS, May 14.—Full reports of the recent battle at Chiriquita, near Chiriqui Grande, between the government forces and the revolutionists, state that the government lost 375 men killed, or who died of their wounds.

Of the entire force which landed at Chiriquita only seventy-three returned alive to Bocas, most of them wounded. Of these twenty-two have since died.

The revolutionists lost five killed and seventeen wounded. Both sides are awaiting re-enforcements for another battle.

The order of the Colombian government prohibiting any launches from operating near the revolutionary forces is entailing great hardships on the fruit trade. This order was promulgated to keep the rebels from capturing the launches and bringing their soldiers from Chiriqui City, Monkey Point, and other lagoons ports to Bocas.

The result of the order has been that American vessels trading with the ports instead of visiting one or two of them, as they were wont to do, now have to make the circuit of all the lagoon ports.

The result of this order was that the Alabama had to go to seven ports to complete her cargo of 15,000 bunches of bananas, while heretofore she only had to visit one or two.

The Colombian gunboat General Pinzon has been missing for some days, and it is reported that she has been captured by the revolutionists.

READY TO CONSIDER CREED REVISION

Most Important Assembly of Presbyterian Church Convened Tomorrow in New York.

NEW YORK, May 14.—The commissioners of the 14th general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, are almost all in the city. The assembly meets in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church tomorrow, and its sessions will continue for nearly two weeks.

This will be about the most important general assembly in the history of the church. For the first time the question of creed revision is to come up as a measure to be seriously considered and be passed upon.

If the overtures which are offered by the creed revision committee, as explanatory of the spirit and meaning of the Westminster Confession, are adopted by the assembly many prominent Presbyterians predict that it will be but a few years before the proposed "brief statement" is formally substituted for the "Westminster Confession," which will be dropped altogether.

The report of the creed revision committee will be made public on Friday.

THOUGHT TO HAVE FOUNDERED

Wreckage of British Steamer Camorta Discovered in the Bay of Bengal.

LONDON, May 14.—A dispatch from Rangoon, British Burma, says that a lifeboat belonging to the British steamship Camorta has been picked up in latitude 15.20 north, longitude 96 east, in Bay of Bengal. The Camorta is overdue at that port from Madras and had 650 passengers on board.

A life boat and boom belonging to the Camorta has also been picked up by a vessel searching for the missing steamship near Krishna Lightship, on the Madras coast.

It is believed the Camorta foundered during a cyclone on May 6. Besides her 650 passengers, who were natives, the Camorta had a crew of eighty-nine.

Mrs. John Kelly Dying. PARIS, May 14.—Mrs. John Kelly, widow of the ex-leader of Tammany Hall, is lying at the point of death in the suburbs of Paris. She is in the last stage of cancer.

Victims Had Sought Residential Section in Hopes of Safety.

THE CONDITIONS ARE APPALLING

Latest Dispatches Tell of Death and Devastation Wrought.

MONT PEELE STILL ACTIVE

Only Living Thing Seen in Stricken District Was an Ox, Thin as a Skeleton—Every House Within Five-Mile Area Absolutely in Ruins.

PORT DE FRANCE, May 14.—The commander of the navy tug Potomac left an assistant at the hospital here and has presented to the authorities a quantity of disinfectants, none of which can be obtained at present.

Signor Paravicino, the Italian consul at Barbados, whose daughter perished in the disaster, has brought the body here in a coffin. There was some doubt concerning the identity of the remains, but this was set at rest by relatives and friends identifying the clothing. The body was found by Signor Paravicino near the village of Carbet, a suburb of St. Pierre.

Bodies Covered by Ashes. The scenes around the residence where the remains were found were worse than in St. Pierre itself. In the latter place the victims were mostly covered by ashes and fully 500 bodies that were immensely distended, and in an advanced stage of decomposition. Near Carbet there were some composition.

These bodies were counted also, as were those in the house in which Signora Paravicino was found, and on the adjacent land. Nearly all the dead were lying on their faces on the ground.

Those found in the ruins of dwellings were badly charred. The body of a woman was found in a nearby stream, to which she had apparently fled in the hope of saving herself from the hot air and flames. A large heap of bodies was found in one servant. They were apparently those of servants.

Another residence close by, but sheltered partly by a hill on the St. Pierre side, escaped almost untouched. The windows and shutters are gone, but inside the furniture, papers, books, clothing and the flooring are mostly unscathed.

Ox Alone Lives. The only living thing seen in this district was an ox, thin as a skeleton. While the body of Signora Paravicino was being prepared for removal this animal stalked slowly through the wreckage to the beach, where it drank sea water and then went back up the hillside.

On the beach a man and horse were passed. Further on the body of a man was found at the foot of a statue of the Virgin, he evidently having been killed while praying.

A large statue of the Virgin on the hill above St. Pierre was hurled yards distant from its base. This, together with the fact that huge trees were torn up by their roots and laid flat, scarcely one being left standing, and other indications show that the wave of fire must have passed over this section of the island at extreme hurricane velocity.

Houses in Ruins. Every house in St. Pierre, including those that were most stone, is absolutely in ruins. The ruins are piled twelve feet high, and hundreds of bodies are seen in the direction.

Your correspondent also visited the tower in the cathedral, which is the greater part of the city destroyed, but the tower is still standing, though damaged. In one large ash heap of what had been a chalice was full of which was even charred.

It is known that many sought refuge in the cathedral, but their bodies are scarcely covered with the debris.

Four correspondents also visited the telegraph office, and the principal shops. Everywhere was the same scene of utter devastation and death. At the police station there was a large pile of bodies lying face downward, as if the victims had fallen while in the act of running to escape the fate impending over them.

Casks of Rum Intact. In one distillery a quantity of rum was found intact in casks. Curiosity seekers have picked up a few relics of no value save as souvenirs. No officials were seen anywhere.